

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/686,621

Examiner

Joseph W. Drodge

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE of 8/16/07 and Amendment of 7/16/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-11,13-31 and 66, now renumbered claims 1-30.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20070919.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended as follows:

13. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim [12] -- 1 -- , wherein -- **said solvent comprises** -- chlorinated organic solvent [is used as a main solvent of said solvent].

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim [12] -- 1 -- , wherein -- **said solvent comprises** -- nonchlorinated organic solvent [is used as a main solvent of said solvent]. -- .

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Monique Cole on September 19, 2007.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claim 1 is now deemed to be distinguished for reasons of record. Independent claim 15 is now deemed distinguished over the closest prior art, Gillberg-Laforce et al patent 5,618,622, of record, and newly cited Bormann et al patent 6,945,411. Claim 15 distinguishes over Gillberg-Laforce in view of the recitation of the filter medium having hydroxyl groups and substituting one or more substituents or acidic groups for hydrogen atoms in such hydroxyl groups. Gillberg-Laforce, on further review, is seen to disclose filtering of polymer solution with a filter having adhered carboxyl and other groups

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adhered to the filter medium surface, but not suggesting hydroxyl groups, especially with hydrogen atoms of such groups substituted with substituents.

Bormann et al teach a filter medium having it's surface modified with hydroxyl, carboxyl and acidic groups. However, Bormann is used for filtering blood, rather than polymer or similary solutions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

JWD

September 19, 2007

  
JOSEPH DRODGE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER